



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAST DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBING AUSTIN BANK ON HALLOWEEN

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Austin this afternoon, 23-year-old Jerry Daniel Cantu pleaded guilty to armed bank robbery and brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence in connection with the robbery of an Austin bank on October 31, 2007.

As a result, Cantu faces between 10 and 35 years in federal prison. Sentencing is scheduled for 9:00am on August 1, 2008, before United States District Judge Sam Sparks.

Last month, Cantu's co-defendants—27-year-old Gregory Lee Valle, 20-year-old Michael Joshua Compton and 24-year-old John Anthony Rodela—were sentenced to 166 months, 190 months and 120 months in federal prison, respectively, for their roles in the incident.

By pleading guilty, Cantu admitted that on the afternoon of October 31, 2007, he, Compton and Valle entered the Wachovia Bank located at 6208 McNeil Drive in Austin, armed with shotguns and demanded money from bank employees and customers. They fled the bank on foot to a getaway vehicle nearby driven by Rodela taking with them approximately \$9,200 in cash as well as personal items from their victims such as purses, wallets and cell phones.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with investigators from the Austin Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Gerald C. Carruth is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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